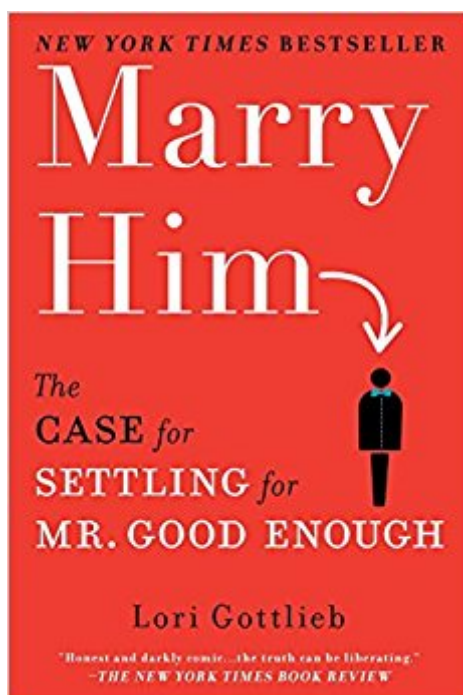


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# Marry Him: The Case For Settling For Mr. Good Enough



## Synopsis

New York Times Bestseller New York Times Editors' Choice Selection "An unexpected delight. Honest and darkly comic... the truth can be liberating." -The New York Times "Marry Him is surprisingly, unnervingly convincing." -O, The Oprah Magazine Funny and relatable... anything but antiromance." -People magazine "Marry Him shows women how to find true happiness when seeking love--by giving them a new way to look at the world. Gottlieb manages to be hilarious yet thought-provoking, light-hearted yet profound on the questions of: Why do we fall in love? What qualities really matter in a marriage? For what reasons do we make the decisions that affect our whole lives? Marry Him will set people talking for years." -Gretchen Rubin, New York Times bestselling author of The Happiness Project Throughout her thirties, journalist Lori Gottlieb had noticed that modern dating seemed to be getting ever more complicated and statistics backed that up: more people who wanted a partner were having trouble finding one. But when Gottlieb found herself single and wondering why she hadn't found The One, the question became deeply personal. Nowadays women don't need to marry, but many still want to. What was getting in the way? Combining interviews with researchers, experts, and hundreds of men and women both married and single with cutting edge research on modern love, marriage, and what makes for happy, lasting relationships, Marry Him is an eye-opening, funny, and always truthful in-depth examination of modern relationships and a call to arms about having higher standards about what really matters.

## Book Information

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## Customer Reviews

\*Starred Review\* Gottlieb, 37, made the decision to become a single parent after years of searching for Mr. Right. Four years later, when she still hadn't found him, she decided to take a good look at her dating habits and the dating habits of women around her to see if the problem is not a dearth of good men but rather women's expectations of them. Gottlieb finds that women want it all and often aren't willing to compromise on their list of traits their ideal mate must have. In their twenties, many women leave good relationships based on an elusive feeling that they could find something more with someone else, and they regret it down the road when their choices dwindle. It's not that women aren't willing to settle; it's that many refuse to recognize that their vision of the perfect man doesn't match reality. With the help of dating coach Evan Marc Katz, Gottlieb reconsidered her own standards in the hope of finding happiness. Gottlieb's honest, astute analysis will resonate with many women and make them uneasy as they recognize themselves in her experiences and those of the women she interviews. Gottlieb makes a strong case in this groundbreaking work.

--Kristine Huntley --This text refers to an out of print or unavailable edition of this title.

"An unexpected delight. Honest and darkly comic... the truth can be liberating." -The New York Times "Marry Him is surprisingly, unnervingly convincing." -O, The Oprah Magazine "Funny and relatable... anything but antiromance." -People magazine "A sensible plea to discard the toxic fantasy of romantic comedies and think realistically about what makes a solid partnership." -Salon "This is the smartest relationship book I've read in years." -AOL's lemondrop.com "This impeccably researched tome is mandatory reading." -The Huffington Post "Marry Him shows women how to find true happiness when seeking love--by giving them a new way to look at the world. Gottlieb manages to be hilarious yet thought-provoking, light-hearted yet profound on the questions of: Why do we fall in love? What qualities really matter in a marriage? For what reasons do we make the decisions that affect our whole lives? Marry Him will set people talking for years." -Gretchen Rubin, New York Times bestselling author of The Happiness Project "I wish I could round up every single woman I know and assign this book for discussion. Marry Him is a big fat lesson in how not to get in your own way. Any woman who wants to find true love and hasn't been able to should read this book." -Pepper Schwartz, Ph.D., relationship expert at Perfectmatch.com "A well-conceived and convincing argument on how to find a more realistic Mr. Right. If you've ever sought your own Prince Charming, your love life will never be the same again. And that's a good thing." -Christian Science Monitor "Marry Him is a frank and funny read, weaving real

people's stories with Gottlieb's own experiences, and containing sharp examinations of how society and culture-everything from *When Harry Met Sally* to *The Bachelor*-come into play when modern women look for love." -The New York Observer "A provocative pop culture treatise... she encourages us to think through our own beliefs and unexamined assumptions." -The Chicago Tribune "The buzz surrounding Lori Gottlieb's newest book, *Marry Him*, is well-deserved... She writes with honesty and hope, and there are many people who will benefit from reading this book." -The Examiner "What Gottlieb is saying isn't subversive--it's smart. A thoroughly entertaining reality check."-Diablo Cody, Academy Award-winning Screenwriter of *Juno* "Finally, here's a cautionary tale for anyone wondering why she hasn't found Mr. Right--with a hopeful message about the Mr. Right Nows, the Mr. Close Enoughs, and even the Mr. What the F\*%s." -Jill Soloway, writer and executive producer for *Six Feet Under* and *Transparent*"Engaging, hilarious, and eye-opening! *Marry Him* is an encouraging story about finding love by getting real." -Rachel Greenwald, New York Times bestselling author of *Find a Husband After 35* "This is a daring and wise book. Women (and men) should take Gottlieb's message to heart: 'Look for reasons to say yes.' It could change your life." -Helen Fisher, Ph.D., Rutgers University and author of *Why Him? Why Her?* "I have been very happily married for many years, and if my daughters ever ask me for advice about potential spouses, I plan to pass off a lot of what's in this book as my own sage wisdom." -Kurt Anderson, New York Times bestselling author of *Heyday* and host of public radio's *Studio 360* "Lori Gottlieb's smart, insightful, witty observations gleaned on her own unusual romantic path signal an important new voice in single-girl lit. *The Rules* turned single women needy, *He's Just Not That Into You* made them depressed, and *Marry Him* finally sets them free, preaching that in the long run, 'good enough' might be better than great." -Amy Sohn, author of *Prospect Park West* "By telling you to read Lori Gottlieb's incisive and insightful book, I hope I can make up for all the unrealistic romantic propaganda I had a hand in spreading as a former editor at a glossy women's magazine."-Megan McCafferty, New York Times bestselling author of the *Jessica Darling* series

This is one of the books, we wish we had all read at 25, except we wouldn't have paid any attention then...Realistic talk and wonderful concepts about giving love and attraction a chance to develop! Sobering facts about women over 35 trying to find marriage, but good advice at how to rectify it... An excellent read.The last chapter however was kind of phoned in, IMO... And it can be too simplistic at times, doesn't address strategies on what to do when one is only sexually attracted to the top 20 percentile guys, another reason why it's a tough sell for the under 30 crowd... Who funnily enough

would probably get the most benefit from this book, while they're still young enough to not make the mistakes in the first place, rather than being in one's forties and doing damage control....

I'm rereading the book, "Marry Him- the case for settling for Mr. Good Enough" and it's the best wake up call for me. I just turned 30 and I'm a total Maximizer. I even compare Groupons to other daily deals looking for the best thing out there. I did the whole date a ton in my 20's and online dating spree. I think I had 70 dates in a year before deciding to date one guy exclusively who has been my boyfriend now for 2 years. I love him, but I also look at the flaws and think, the grass is greener, if I date again I'll find the right one. Your book is helping me realize he is a total catch and I'm getting in the way of myself. I just need to water my own grass instead of looking for greener pastures. Thank you, thank you, thank you Lori for writing this book. I swear it might be saving me from being alone in the future regretting all the awesome guys I found flaws with.

I am 21, and this book changed my who perception on dating and love in the BEST way. So incredibly glad I read this right now. It was the wake-up call I needed. After reading some of the negative reviews, let me say this: Gottlieb is not saying that you should settle for someone who makes you unhappy, or who doesn't treat you right or who is abusive. Instead, she urges you to redefine what you think makes for a good lifelong partner-- and instead of searching for someone who you've dreamed up in your head, look honestly and the men you date and search for someone who actually will make you happy in love. If you're at all curious, just read it. Read it with an open mind and actually do some self reflection. In my opinion, this book hits the nail on the head when it comes to modern dating and expectations.

For 24 years before now, I lived in the DC-area, and that's where the bulk of my dating history took place. All I can say is "thank you" to Ms. Gottlieb for her book, I completely get it. Reading the book was like having a mirror held before me. I think of several men I dated in my late 20s, early 30s that I should have given more of a chance but had all the notions in my head of what "the right one" would be like. Well, I'm now 47 and not married. I didn't want to be a parent, but I always thought, for sure, I would marry someday. I've resigned myself to knowing that's not likely to happen, and I think I'm cool with it now. The book helped me understand what I was doing all those years ago. I will continue my professional career as I can, bask in the life I have with friends and family and accept it for what it is: a mistake I made a long time ago that I can't change. But for you 20- and 30-somethings out there who want to get married, read this book and then read it again. She knows

of what she speaks!

I really enjoyed reading this book which inspired me to look at my relationships in a new perspective. Lori is like a girlfriend who will talk to you for hours about a subject you deeply care about but your other girlfriends won't because they are too busy being married, having babies, pursuing a career, or looking for Mr. Right. She will talk to you about your innermost fears and desires, make you laugh, think, and give you all the wisdom of her own relationships, her friends, and mentors. I really appreciated the candor with which she discussed her own relationships and those she interviewed. There are so many confusing messages out there, and Lori cuts through the rhetoric of feminism to give us a realistic perspective on dating, especially at a late age. Several concepts stood out to me:

1. Judge a partner based on subjective criteria, not objective criteria. Too often women judge based on objective criteria, such as how tall a man is, what school he went to, what are his hobbies, where he is from, how much money does his family have, what he does for a living, etc. While these attributes play a role, and it's nice to find someone who fits our ideal in these categories, we shouldn't rule out someone right away because he doesn't meet one or all of these desires. The objective things are not as important as the subjective criteria, things that are absolutely essential in a relationship. For example, Is he kind? Is he intelligent? Does he have a sense of humor? Empathy? Is he hardworking? Is he family oriented? Lori suggests that we prioritize things we would want in a marriage partner rather than things you would want in a girl friend, colleague, or an exercise buddy. Those things are nice, but don't rule someone out because of it because he might still be a great guy without them.
2. Be a satisfiser, not a maximizer. Lori borrows this concept from Barry Schwartz, psychologist who wrote "The Paradox of Choice." The recommendation is don't look for the best partner possible, look for someone who is good enough, and then move on with your life! Schwartz talks about how having more options doesn't help us make a better choice. If we look at 100 sweaters, when we finally pick one out, we are apt to be less happy with our choice than if we had just considered 10 sweaters. The stakes are much higher in marriage than in choosing a sweater, but the costs are higher too. In relationships, you don't have the option of going back to the previous person if you don't find someone better. And if you take too long, you may find that the good ones have already been taken. Unlike shopping, dating means that the other person has to choose YOU too. And for women, the older you get, the harder it gets to get chosen.
3. Dating is a sunk cost. Relationships are huge financial, temporal, and emotional investments. Every time you break up, you lose the investment you made in that relationship, and you have to start from the beginning with the next person. If you keep doing this, all you have are

sunk costs and wounds in your heart that take years and years to heal. But if you marry the person you have invested in, then that investment will continue to grow and be a foundation of memories that you will look back upon fondly, instead of sadly. This is also an argument not to stay in the wrong relationship for an extended period of time. Many people feel that they should pursue their career, experience an exciting social life, and "have fun" before they "settle down." There are a lot of misconceptions about this maxim because nothing says that you can't do those things with a partner. In fact, you will have more fun, more excitement, better sex, and even improve your career if you have a supportive and adventurous partner. The limitations only apply if you have a baby or take a mortgage right away. So after you have read this book, I suggest that you do the following: Take a look at your current and previous relationships, and assess whether you judged those people based on subjective or objective criteria, and realistically whether they would make good marriage partners for you. Also think about your own assets and what they merit. And maybe why people in your past broke up with you. A good marriage doesn't depend on a perfect partner who never makes you irritated or unhappy, those things are bound to come up some times. Much of a successful relationship depends on your commitment to make it work. These things said, choose carefully because you don't want to end up in an unhappy marriage. Unhappy marriages are worse than no marriage at all. But a good marriage is definitely superior to being single and looking.

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